

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating information, comprising

- providing a plurality of transmitters having a limited transmission range and positioned in selected loci, each of the transmitters being capable of transmitting information which can be adapted to the particular location of the transmitter and to the time of transmission,

- providing a plurality of mobile receivers capable of receiving information from one or several of the transmitters, and of outputting the information,

- transmitting, from at least some of the transmitters, information to be output by mobile receivers, which is related to the locus in which the transmitter is placed, optionally together with other information,

- displaying, on the display of at least some of the receivers, information relating to transmitters available to the receiver, and

- entering, at the display of the at least some of the receivers, a selection between the available transmitters,

and thereby enabling the receivers to receive, from a selected transmitter, information that is to be output, where at least part of said information which is dependent on the location of the individual receiver relative to the location of said transmitter ~~one or more of the transmitters~~.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

- each transmitter transmits information over one or more of a group of predetermined channels and
 - the at least one of the receivers periodically, cyclically or continuously scan(s) the group of predetermined channels and display(s) the information relating to transmitters available to the receiver(s).

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the transmitters transmit information in channels defined by one or more of the group consisting of:

- channels defined by frequency/amplitude modulated signals modulated at different frequencies/amplitudes,
- channels defined by optical signals transmitted at different wavelengths, and
- channels defined by different slots in a time division multiplexing system.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information comprises visual information, and the receivers comprise displays capable of representing the visual information, the displays having a predetermined minimum resolution, the transmitters and receivers being adapted to operate at a bandwidth which allows utilisation of the minimum resolution.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the bandwidth allows transmission of a video signal.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the receivers comprise means for selecting between different sources of information transmitted from one or several of the transmitters.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the means for selecting between different sources of information function without any transmission from the receivers.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 46, wherein the means for selecting between different sources of information comprise means for performing the selection on the displays of the receivers.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the range of the transmission of at least some of the transmitters is limited to a building in which one or more of the at least some of the transmitters is located.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the range of the transmission of at least some of the transmitters is limited to a room.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the receivers are capable of selecting between several available transmitters on the basis of a positioning and/or directioning of the receiver.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein at least some of the at least some of the receivers are provided with pointing means, and the selection between several available transmitters is performed by pointing the pointing means toward the desired transmitter.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the displays of at least some of the receivers are touchscreens.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information transmitted by at least some of the transmitters comprises video and/or audio.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information transmitted by at least some of the transmitters comprises non-local information from information providers who have leased all or part of the bandwidth of the respective transmitters.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to a claim 1 wherein the locus-related information is selected from the group consisting of:

- information relating to free spaces in a parking parting lot or parking area,
- information relating to offers or products in a supermarket or other type of shop,
- information relating to items exposed, exhibited or offered for sale at a given location,
- information relating to places visited during trips or round trips, and
- information relating to the status of different items, such as refrigerators, locks, lamps, etc., of a building.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising transmitting information from one or more of the receivers to one or more of the transmitters.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the information transmitted to a transmitter makes the transmitter alter the information transmitted thereby.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the information transmitted by at least one transmitter comprises a number of different parts of information, each part at least

comprising first and second information, the first information relating to an image to be presented on a screen or monitor of a receiver.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein the receiver comprises a touchscreen and wherein the first information of an active part is output by the receiver by showing at least some of that information on the touchscreen, and wherein, if one or more predetermined areas of the touchscreen is/are activated, at least part of the first information relating to one or more other selected parts is/are output, the second information of the active part being decisive in determining, on the basis of the activated area(s) which other part(s) to select.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein, if a predetermined part of the information is selected, a video signal received from a transmitter is shown on the touchscreen.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, where a subsequent activation of a predetermined area of the touchscreen will select a predetermined part and output at least part of the first information thereof.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein a transmitter periodically transmits the information to the one or

more receivers, and where the period of transmission is sufficiently high to ensure that the video signal of the second part of the information is transmitted with a predetermined bandwidth.

24. (Original) A receiver for use in the method according to claim 1, the receiver comprising:

- means for receiving and storing transmitted information,
- means for selecting between different parts of the information received,
- means for outputting the selected information,
- display means for displaying information relating to transmitters available to the receiver, and
- means for entering a selection between the available transmitters.

25. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, further comprising means for continuously or cyclically scanning a predetermined group of channels and displaying information relating to transmitters available and transmitting at one or more of the channels.

26. (Original) A receiver according to claim 25, wherein the scanning means comprise means for scanning channels defined by one or more of the group consisting of:

- channels defined by frequency/amplitude modulated signals modulated at different frequencies/amplitudes,
- channels defined by optical signals transmitted at different wavelengths, and
- channels defined by different slots in a time division multiplexing system.

27. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, wherein the selecting means comprise a touchscreen being adapted to have a first predetermined part of the information selected by a user touching the touchscreen at a predetermined position.

28. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, wherein the receiving means comprises means for selecting between different sources of information transmitted from one or several transmitters.

29. (Original) A receiver according to claim 28, wherein the means for selecting between different sources of information function without any transmission from the receivers.

30. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, wherein the means for selecting between different sources/channels of information comprise means for performing the selection on the touchscreen.

31. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, wherein the selecting means are adapted to select between several available transmitters on the basis of a positioning and/or directioning of the receiver.

32. (Original) A receiver according to claim 29, the selecting means comprising pointing means, and the selection between several available transmitters being performed by pointing the pointing means toward the desired transmitter.

33. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, the receiver further comprising means for transmitting information to one or more of the transmitters.

34. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, wherein the selecting means and the outputting means are adapted to output a video signal, if a second predetermined part of the information is selected.

35. (Original) A receiver according to claim 34, wherein the selecting means are adapted to, when the second predetermined part is output, select and output a predetermined first part of the information received upon activation of the touchscreen.

36. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, wherein the means for receiving and storing information comprise means for dividing the information into the different parts thereof and for storing the individual parts in different predetermined parts of the storing means, and where the selecting means comprises means for identifying the part of the storing means corresponding to the selected part of the information.

A/ 37. (Original) A receiver according to claim 36, wherein the receiving and storing means comprises:

- means for dividing the information of different parts of the information into information to be shown and controlling information, and
- means for, for each of the different parts of information, the information in at least essentially the same manner/order so that the outputting means may output these parts of the information using the same procedure.

38. (Original) A receiver according to claim 24, further comprising means for increasing the capability of the storing means by interacting and/or engaging with an additional storing means.

39. (Original) A transmitter for use in the method according to claim 1, the transmitter comprising:

- means for receiving and storing information to be transmitted,
- means for identifying different parts of the information,
- means for dividing the information of individual parts of the information into first information to be shown and second, controlling information,
- means for transmitting the received information in a manner so that the information of the individual parts of information is transmitted in at least substantially the same manner/order.

40. (Original) A transmitter according to claim 39, wherein the transmitting means are adapted to perform a continuous, a repeated, and/or a periodical transmission of the information.

41. (Original) A transmitter according to claim 40, wherein a period of transmission of the information is sufficiently high to ensure that the video signal is transmitted with a predetermined bandwidth as one of the different parts of the information.

42. (Original) A transmitter according to claim 39, wherein the receiving and storing means comprise a plurality of means for receiving or generating information, where at least one means for receiving or generating information is adapted to receive or generate information relating to a vicinity of a location of the

transmitter, and wherein at least one other means for receiving or generating information is adapted to receive or generate information relating to one or more locations remote from the location of the transmitter.

43. (Original) A system for providing information and for performing the method according to claim 1, the system comprising a plurality of the receivers according to claim 24 and a plurality of the transmitters according to claim 39.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-43 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 12, 15, 17, 18, 21-23, 30, 32-37 and 39-43 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, since these claims depend from claim 1, which is also considered to be allowable, Applicants have not yet rewritten these claims in independent form.

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner correctly points out that the dependency of this claim is incorrect, and claim 8 has now been made to depend from claim 6. Applicants have also corrected a misspelling in claim 16.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13, 16, 19, 20, 24-29, 31 and 38 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over BEGUM et al. (WO 91/14984) in view of ALBUKERK et al. (U.S. Patent 5,929,848). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner points out that the BEGUM et al. reference shows portable devices that are provided to customers, that receive transmissions from a plurality of transmitters having a limited transmission range. The transmitters transmit triggers related to products on the shelves, causing the portable device to display an advertisement about the products. The Examiner admits that the reference does not show that the portable devices select between available transmitters.

The Examiner cited the ALBUKERK et al. reference to show an interactive portable device that may be used in shopping malls. The device allows the user to select information about a product using a touch screen. When the user makes a selection, the device selects a transmitter based on the strongest signal. The Examiner feels that it would have been obvious to modify the device of BEGUM et al. to be able to select the strongest signal from the available transmitters as taught by ALBUKERK et al.

Applicants disagree that amended claim 1 is obvious over these two references. In particular, claim 1 now describes a method which not only provides a plurality of transmitters and a plurality of receivers, but where the transmitters transmit information which is

to be output by the receivers. This information is related to the location of the transmitter, at least. As a result, the receivers are enabled by a selected transmitter to output information which depends on the location of the receiver relative to the transmitter. This arrangement is not seen in either of the references or their combination.

BEGUM et al. describes a portable device provided on a shopping cart which receives information which is seen by the user and which comes from a single transmitter. When a user moves the cart from a storage area into the area of another transmitter, the device receives a trigger signal which points to some information which is already stored in the device, causing it to be output to the user. Accordingly, there is only one transmitter that sends information, while the other transmitters only send triggers or pointers to information that is to be displayed.

ALBUKERK et al. has the same type of system, where a device has information related to objects in storage and receives signals from a plurality of object identification devices to fetch stored data that is related to the object in question. Again, the transmitters only transmit a pointer and not the actual data.

Both of these references therefore fail to teach a system where there are several transmitters transmitting information to be received and output by the mobile receivers, and where the user is able to select the transmitter. Accordingly, neither of the

references teach this concept and the combination of the two references also does not teach this concept.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is clearly patentable over this combination of references.

Claims 2-43 depend from claim 1 and, as such, are also considered to be allowable. Each of these claims recites other features of the invention which make them additionally allowable. In particular, the Examiner has already noted that several of these claims are allowable.

Claims 5 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over BEGUM et al. in view of ALBUKERK et al., and further in view of TRACY et al. (U.S. Patent 5,979,757). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cites the TRACY et al. reference to show a portable shopping system and a portable terminal which is capable of receiving messages through a wireless communication network. The Examiner feels that it would have been obvious to modify the combination of BEGUM et al. and ALBUKERK et al. to provide an adequate bandwidth to allow transmission of video. Applicants submit that, even if the TRACY et al. device teaches the features suggested by the Examiner, it does not aid the other two references in overcome the deficiencies as noted above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims define over this combination of references.